

Congress has justifiably required that certain Federal officials live in the jurisdiction they serve to ensure in-depth knowledge of the unique issues and challenges residents and these Federal officials face, but these Federal officials serving the District are not required to do so. There is no reason that the Directors of CSOSA and PSA, Federal agencies that uniquely serve D.C. residents, should not be required to live in the District, engage with local communities and work closely with local officials. Adding residency requirements for these Federal officials is a matter of fairness for the residents they serve.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### CONGRATULATING CHRIS NILSEN

#### HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 9, 2021*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate University of South Dakota alum Chris Nilsen for placing first in the pole vault at the U.S. Olympic Trials and qualifying for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

During the Trials, Chris made his first six attempts, clearing both the Olympic standard and the championship clinching height without a miss. He currently ranks fifth in the world heading into the Games. His success at the Trials is just one of the many impressive feats in his pole-vaulting career.

As a Coyote, Chris was a three-time NCAA Champion and seven-time All-American. He was also named USTFCCCA National Field Athlete of the Year. He graduated from USD in 2020.

This is not the first time Chris Nilsen will represent USD and the U.S. on the big stage. In 2019, he won gold at the Pan American Games. He also represented the U.S. at the 2017 World Championships and qualified for the 2016 Olympic Trials at the age of 18.

I want to congratulate Chris on winning the event and punching his ticket to Tokyo. I look forward to cheering him and the rest of Team USA on at the Olympic Games.

#### PROCLAMATION TO HONOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OPAL LEE

#### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 9, 2021*

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, few can be heralded as being the impetus for one of this country's national holidays. Fort Worth's own Opal Lee is one such person. It is not an overstatement to say that without Opal Lee, June 19 would not have been made a national holiday. Juneteenth, as it is known, now is. Invited by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Opal Lee stood next to him in the White House on June 17 as the President signed into law the legislation making June 19 a Federal holiday; and she's been jetting, literally, around the country ever since to be recognized for this monumental achievement.

Opal Lee has committed much of her life to celebrating June 19, the day in 1865, when

Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that enslaved Africans were now free. Quoting from General Orders Number 3, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger announced that "[t]he people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. . . ."

Opal Lee has been the face of Juneteenth in Fort Worth for decades. By the early 2000s, she began advocating for making Juneteenth a national holiday. And in 2016, at age 90, she started a walking campaign across the Nation to bring attention to and awareness of the need for a National Day of Observance for Juneteenth. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States.

Opal Lee is a graduate of the Historic I.M. Terrell High School, class of 1943. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1953, from Wiley College, now Wiley University. She returned to Fort Worth to teach at Amanda McCoy Elementary School for 15 years, where she was regarded as one of the best educators in her field. She later obtained her master's degree in Counseling and Guidance from North Texas State University, now University of North Texas, and served as Home/School Counselor for Fort Worth Independent School District until her retirement in 1977.

With Lenora Rolla, another of Fort Worth's legendary icons and treasures, as its inspiration, Opal Lee, along with 19 other charter members, founded the Tarrant County Black Historical & Genealogical Society in the 1970s. The Tarrant County Black Historical & Genealogical Society is dedicated to archiving and preserving the historical contributions of Fort Worth and Tarrant County's Black citizens to be able to educate and empower future generations through art, history, and culture.

Opal Lee's long and varied service to Fort Worth also includes serving on the Historic & Cultural Landmarks Commission, AIDS Outreach committee, Evans Avenue Business Association, and Riverside Neighborhood Advisory Council, among many others. For more than 30 years, Lee has served as Precinct Chair for District 8. She is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated; the Grandmother's Club; the Ethel Ransom Humanitarian & Cultural Club and remains an active member of Baker Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she serves as a Missionary, church school teacher, assistant teacher and Deaconess. That is why I am honored to have her as my constituent in Texas' 33rd District, and proud to honor her as a Civil Rights leader for North Texas.

#### HONORING U.S. NAVY CAPTAIN JEFF CHISM

#### HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 9, 2021*

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a true American leader and patriot, Captain Jeff Chism, on the occasion of his retirement after 26 years of honorable service in the United States Navy.

A native of Tigard, Oregon, Captain Jeff Chism is a distinguished graduate of Biola

University, the University of Southern California, the Graziadio School of Business at Pepperdine University, and the Naval War College. Captain Chism earned his commission in the U.S. Navy through the University of California, Los Angeles Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He is a designated Naval Flight Officer, Prowler Tactics Instructor, and operationally flew in the EA-6B Prowler and the EA-18G Growler.

Captain Chism's sea duty assignments included the "Black Ravens" of VAQ-135; the "Garudas" of VAQ-134; the Balkans Combined Air Operations Center Electronic Warfare Coordination Cell (EWCC) Vicenza, Italy; and the CENTCOM Combined Theater EWCC at the USAFCENT Combined Air Operations Center, Qatar.

During these tours, he deployed aboard the USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) in support of Operations DESERT FOX and SOUTHERN WATCH; a combat flying deployment to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, in support of Operation NORTHERN WATCH; two combat flying deployments to Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM; and two individual augmentee deployments first in support of Operations JOINT FORGE and JOINT GUARDIAN and then Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQ FREEDOM, and NEW DAWN.

Ashore, he served with the "Bloodhounds" of VX-30; as Commander, U.S. THIRD FLEET (J7); and with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisitions and Sustainment Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Tactical Warfare Systems.

Captain Chism also Commanded the "Zappers" of VAQ-130. During this tour, he deployed aboard the USS *Harry S Truman* (CVN 75) in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Under his command, the squadron earned the 2013 Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet Battle "E", 2013 Commander Naval Air Forces Admiral Arthur W. Radford Award, and 2013 Chief of Naval Operations Safety "S."

Captain Chism's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (fifteen Strike/Flight awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Air Force Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), and various campaign and unit awards.

In June 2018, Captain Chism assumed his duties as commanding officer of Naval Base Ventura County, located in California's 26th Congressional District. With great distinction, he dutifully oversaw a diverse installation that supports more than 80 tenant commands with a base population of more than 19,000 personnel, including the Naval Construction Group ONE—also known as the "Seabees."

Captain Chism's career at Naval Base Ventura County has been underscored by his exemplary leadership, perceptive planning, and focus on both mission execution and community engagement. These efforts were clearly demonstrated by Captain Chism's remarkable command of major aviation, shore, and port facilities, comprised of three primary sites: Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, and San Nicolas Island.

Captain Chism also directed the day-to-day operations at the base, providing comprehensive support services to the Fleet, Fighter, and Family. He also directed diverse installation